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**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to retrieving performance monitor data from an I/O processor. A performance monitoring driver coupled to a performance monitoring unit is registered as a private driver with a real time operating system of the I/O processor. Events within the I/O processor are selected on which to gather data. The selected events are sent as a message request to the real time operating system. The message request is translated into the appropriate parameters based on a set of private group parameters that are accessible by the real time operating system. The message request is sent as a translated request to the performance monitoring unit. The pieces of data requested by the translated request are returned to the performance monitoring driver. The pieces of data then are sent to a location specified in the message request.

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